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To : Benton Howard

From : P.W. Orr

Subject: Forest Insect and Disease Control

Replies to our February 9 memorandum about thinning ponderosa pine and the attendant Ips problem have been received from the eastside forests.

A brief summary follows:

Forest	Does the forest have an Ips problem?		Is it serious?		Desirable to thin in spring and summer?		Would you consider direct control to prevent buildup?	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Deschutes		X		X		X		(X)
Fremont	X			X	(X)			(X)
Gifford Pinchot		X		X		X	X	
Malheur	X		X		(X)		(X)	
Mt. Hood	X			X		X	(X)	
Ochoco		X		X	X		(X)	
Okanogan		X			(X)		(X)	
Rogue River		X		X		X	(X)	
Siskiyou		X		(X)		X	X	
Snoqualmie		X		X	X		(X)	
Umatilla		(X)			X	X	(X)	
Wallowa-Whitman	X			X	X		(X)	
Winema	X			X	X			
Wenatchee		X		X	X		(X)	

() indicates qualified answers.

Question 1. Does the forest have an ips problem?

Most forests indicated that they had no general ips problem. Those that did state the damage is localized on certain districts. Forests where pine occurs as a mixed species find most ips damage in areas having a heavier ponderosa pine volume. The Umatilla reports that limited thinning has been done, so it is difficult to assess the impact of ips damage.

Question 2. How serious is it?

The Malheur indicates the killing is quite serious to the extent that all leave trees have been killed on some thinning projects. Most other forests do not find ips damage serious. The Siskiyou replied that private owners near the forest boundary experienced serious damage in certain locations.

Question 3. Is it desirable to be able to thin during spring and summer?

If so, what are the savings over the fall and winter?

Forests are about equally divided about the desirability of thinning in the spring and summer. This is primarily based on their evaluation of costs involved. Most forests pointed out that force account experience indicates winter operations are more costly (at least 25 percent higher). It is reasonable to assume contract costs would also be greater. Some forests currently contract fall and winter thinning along with force

account work rather than thin in the spring. Other forests are thinning or plan to thin during spring and summer because sale areas are inaccessible during fall and winter months. Summer thinning also reduces contract costs. Nearly all answering the questionnaire pointed out that it is necessary to balance the reduced costs of spring and summer thinning against the possible need for chemical treatment of the slash to prevent ips buildups.

Question 4. If necessary to prevent an ips buildup, would you consider direct control?

The concensus appears to be that direct control would be considered if a favorable cost relationship could be shown over fall and winter thinning costs. Most pointed out it would be desirable to have information on direct control when it is necessary to thin in the late spring and summer. The need for careful study and analysis of a thinning area before direct control is undertaken was stressed by most forests.